

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,331,372 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 10/549429
DATED : February 19, 2008
INVENTOR(S) : Kiyoto Takizawa et al.

Page 1 of 2

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 13, line 20, to Column 14, line 29, delete claims 6 through 12, and insert the following claims 6 through 12 reordered:

--6. The method for melting a metallic raw material in a metal molding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said melting cylinder is made of a metallic material having a linear expansion coefficient smaller than a linear expansion coefficient of said metallic raw material.

7. The method for melting a metallic raw material in a metal molding apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a heating means is provided within said auxiliary heating member and the center portion of said cylindrical metallic raw material is directly heated from a bottom surface thereof by contact between said auxiliary heating member and the bottom surface of said cylindrical metallic raw material.

8. The method for melting a metallic raw material in a metal molding apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a heating means is provided within said auxiliary heating member and the center portion of said cylindrical metallic raw material is directly heated from a bottom surface thereof by contact between said auxiliary heating member and the bottom surface of said cylindrical metallic raw material.

9. The method for melting a metallic raw material in a metal molding apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein said metallic raw material is made of a low melting metal alloy selected from the group consisting of:
a magnesium alloy, and
an aluminum alloy.

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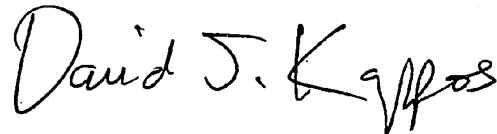
10. The method for melting a metallic raw material in a metal molding apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said metallic raw material is composed of a magnesium alloy exhibiting thixotropic properties at a temperature in a solid-liquid coexisting temperature range.

11. The method for melting a metallic raw material in a metal molding apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the melting of said metallic raw material is performed after cutting and removing cavities generated in a surface layer of the cylindrical metallic raw material and impurities adhered to a surface of the material.

12. The method for melting a metallic raw material in a metal molding apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the melting of said metallic raw material is performed after cutting and removing cavities generated in a surface layer of the cylindrical metallic raw material and impurities adhered to a surface of the material.--

Signed and Sealed this

Eleventh Day of August, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Kappos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D' and a stylized 'K'.

David J. Kappos
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office